

Berkshire
BERKSHIRE

ABINGDON AND FARINGDON DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE



REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR
THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY SIX

ABINGDON AND FARINGDON DISTRICTS JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Members 1956-57

ABINGDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr. J. H. Stanley, 71 John Morris Road, Abingdon.

Mr. F. Stimpson, J.P., 25 Bath Street, Abingdon.

ABINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

Mrs. E. B. Armitage, M.B.E., Walton House, Sutton Courtenay, Nr. Abingdon.

Lt. Col. S. T. Austin, O.B.E., The White House, Shippon, Nr. Abingdon.

Mr. W. Evans, 1 High Street, Drayton, Nr. Abingdon.

Mr. R. M. Haining, 36 Hanney Road, Steventon, Nr. Abingdon.

Mr. W. T. Palmer, 3 Finmore Road, Botley, Oxford.

FARINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

Mr. G. A. Lockwood, 13 Watchfield Road, Watchfield, Nr. Swindon.

Capt. R. A. Prioleau, The Grove, Kingston Lisle, Nr. Wantage.

Mrs. F. G. Walker, Winslow Coombe, Ashbury, Nr. Swindon.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. D. W. Lansdown, Hatford House, Faringdon, Berks.

Mr. O. A. Tunnicliffe, M.C., Church Farm House, Faringdon, Berks.

Clerk: Mr. G. V. Spooner, Council Offices, 60 Bath Street, Abingdon.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

Norman Parfit, M.A., B.M., B.Ch. (Oxon), D.P.H. (Lond.),
60 Bath Street, Abingdon (Telephone 361).

Public Health Inspectors:

ABINGDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Gifford Saffin, F.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.,
The Abbey House, Abingdon (Telephone 851)

Additional Public Health Inspector—A. E. Eames, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.

ABINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

Chief Public Health Inspector T. E. Upton, M.S.I.A.,
60 Bath Street, Abingdon (Telephone 361).

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector T. G. Evans, M.S.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspector J. C. Pickup, M.S.I.A.

FARINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

H. E. Tolman, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Council Offices, Faringdon (Telephone 2296)

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE ABINGDON AND FARINGDON DISTRICTS
JOINT HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1956.

I would like to begin by expressing my gratitude to the Chairman and members of the several committees and Councils that I serve and to the Doctors and Nurses in the area for their continued kindness and helpfulness; to the many colleagues in the other departments of local government for their friendly co-operation and last but by no means least to the five Health Inspectors with whom it has been such a pleasure to work and whose many and varied activities are quite inadequately reflected in the pages dealing with the three Authorities and which are so briefly summarised at the end of each section.

The Vital Statistics of the area continued as good as ever. Unlike those with which the public is all too familiar, not even a high birth rate affected them adversely. The death rate and the Infant Mortality rate continued considerably lower than the national. Analysis of the causes of our 437 deaths shows them to be so close to those of 1955 that the figures for that year are added for comparison. The only notable change was due to the tragic air crash at Drayton.

Of Infectious Diseases it is sad to recall that the death of the much beloved Dr. Dick was the only case of Polio notified in the whole area during the year. The rise in the cases of dysentery was largely due to an outbreak in a rural nursery home of Dr. Barnardo's.

The only other figure to which I would draw special attention is that of 39 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, the same as the average for the last seven years. In 1950 I said that it was 39 too many and quoted the exclamation of King Edward VII of 50 years earlier "If preventable—why not prevented?" T.B. is very much less difficult to prevent now than it was then, which makes the question that much more relevant.

Having, during the past few years, examined the mouths of over ten thousand of our school children I feel I must raise a question which is of urgent national as well as local importance.

The seriousness of dental caries was first brought home to me when, as a boy in 1915, I saw a picture of a broken-hearted Irish would-be recruit who had been rejected because of his bad teeth.

The picture was in 'Punch' and the reject was saying to the recruiting officer, "But, sir, you don't understand. I don't want to bite the Germans but to shoot them". Nearly 30 years later during the past war, out of the first 2 million U.S. recruits aged 18—35, almost 200,000 were rejected because they had less than 6 upper teeth making contact with 6 lower teeth.

Dental disease has been described as the most serious disease in this country. It is certainly the most constantly widespread affecting the largest number for most of their lives. Sooner or later 98% of us suffer from it, but many would be surprised to know how much sooner it is than later. Over half the school entrants at age 5 have already 5 or more decayed teeth. Recently caries were found in 96% (219 out of 228) of the important first permanent molars (6 year molars) in the 10 year old girls at a London School.

Caries in children which in 1955 was found to have become annually worse since sweets were de-rated, was worse still in 1956 and even worse in 1957. 1 in 5 of the adults in this country is toothless. Apart from all the resultant suffering, caries has far reaching ill effects through impaired nutrition and through the poisoning of the body caused by dental disease. Finally, a report this month of the World Health Organisation says that even in those countries with the highest ratio of dentists to population, no more than one-third of the dental needs of the people are being met.

In the face of these facts the astonishing thing is that all dental, medical and public health experts now know, and many of them have known for many years, of an extremely simple, extremely cheap, completely certain and safe, and a perfectly natural method of reducing the *future* dental decay of our children by at least half (and possibly two-thirds). Less, however, than one person in 300 of our 44 million population are benefiting from this knowledge. That sounds too absurd to be true. I have heard it described as too stupid, too wrong, too tragic, to be believed.

The method is called "fluoridation". It has been found that fluoride in the proportion of 1 part per million in water has a remarkable preventive effect on dental decay. Fluoridation, therefore, consists of merely adding to those water supplies which are deficient, and that means most waters in this country, the necessary amount of fluoride to bring it up to the required amount.

Is it really extremely cheap? Yes, compared with the cost of dental fillings, dentures, etc., it is a mere drop in the bucket.

It would cost perhaps 6d. per head per year, or the cost for a life-time less than the real cost of one filling.

It is really extremely simple? Yes! This time less than a drop in a bucket—literally. It needs only one drop of fluoride in 250 glassfulls of water.

Is it really perfectly natural, completely certain and safe? Yes! Half a million people in this country and three and a half million in the U.S. and Canada have lived all their lives drinking water which naturally contains enough fluoride and have benefited from it dentally without any detectable harm. Of course, one can have too much of a good thing, even too much table salt can be fatal. Already 33 million in the U.S. are drinking water to which the missing fluoride has been added, and some communities have been doing so for the past 12 years with constant and exhaustive studies of their bodies as well as their teeth throughout those years. These studies have shown no other detectable effect than that their dental caries is reduced by more than half.

There is no single Public Health measure involving a major disease which has, before its adoption, had

- (1) such thorough investigation and exhaustive testing over so many years.
- (2) so many millions who by living in areas with fluoride naturally present in their water, have provided evidence both of its value to their teeth and of its harmlessness to their bodies and industries.
- (3) such endorsement by all the leading dental, medical and public health experts and professional organisations in the U.S.

Over 7 years ago the American Dental Association said "The Fluoridation of public water supplies as a partial protection against tooth decay is a tremendous step forward in the progressive fight against dental disease. Certainly the opinions of such authoritative bodies should dispel any lingering doubt about the advisability of fluoridating communal drinking water, and they should open the way for all communities having a central water system to provide a simple inexpensive measure which will partially protect their children from the ravages of tooth decay".

A year later, in 1951, the American Public Health Association declared that "this procedure be recommended as a safe and effective method of reducing the prevalence of dental caries".

In the same year the Surgeon-General of the U.S. Public Health Service said "During the past year our studies progressed to the point where we could announce an unqualified endorsement of

the fluoridation of public water supplies as a mass procedure for reducing tooth decay by two-thirds”.

To apply this to ourselves. By Sept. 1952 the Council of Faringdon Rural District had approved plans for fluoridation to be applied to their new Buscot Waterworks, at an estimated cost of 4½d. per head per year. Ever since then we have been given one poor excuse after another for delay. The first was to await the report of the United Kingdom mission which made an extensive study in the U.S. of every aspect of the subject from February to April 1952. The report took a year to appear which, I gather, included the almost human period of nine months' gestation at the printers. This report was of 100 pages and concluded among other things that

- (1) their studies “demonstrated beyond doubt” that children and adults living in areas where water contains 1 part per million fluoride had much less dental caries than where fluoride was lacking (60% less caries at age 12—14) and that the effect persists at least up to 40 years of age.
- (2) that “the evidence is conclusive” that children in areas where water is fluoridated have a reduction of caries similar to areas where it is naturally present,
- (3) that the effect of fluoride added at the waterworks is identical with that present naturally.

In spite of all this the recommendation was to *do* the absolute minimum—to start by repeating all over again in a few small areas in this country studies similar to what the Americans had so clearly demonstrated.

During the five years that have passed since the Mission returned from their studies confirmatory evidence on all the above lines has piled up and up and all the objections and fears of the inevitable opponents, mostly quite absurd and unscientific, have been repeatedly proved unfounded.

As long ago as March 1952 a joint committee of representatives of the following American Associations: the Dental; the Medical; the Public Health; the Hospital; the Nurses and the Public Welfare issued a statement covering all the above points and added that “every year that fluoridation is postponed many thousands of children (they might well have said millions) are deprived of the dental benefits which they might otherwise have obtained”. The committee resolved to “urge the fluoridation of the fluoride-deficient public water supplies of this country as rapidly as plans can be approved . . .”

In February 1951 an editorial in the American Journal of Public Health referred to the fact that a single manufacturer had already

installed 62 fluoridation plants in various States and asks the question "What are the rest of us waiting for?" Since then the number of communities with fluoridation has exceeded 1500.

What, in November 1957, are WE waiting for?

If, as is suggested, there is any uncertainty of a technical legal nature the sooner it is cleared up and overcome the better.

If as is more plausibly said, it is the vocal but largely absurd opposition that is intimidating our leaders a study of its nature would soon show it could be laughed or shamed into insignificance.

If we found that half the teeth of our whole child population were being rotted because an undercover army of agents from E. Germany were secretly infecting all our water supplies with a minute germ, any hindrance that prevented us putting a stop to it would be swept away in no time.

What we need is for the leaders of all parties to join in a national campaign using all the resources of radio and television, press and cinema which would so readily be available to them as soon as there were a realization of the urgency and greatness of this need.

If we continue our policy of delay for another five or more years how are we then going to answer our children who creep like snails unwillingly to the dental chair and say "Yes, I was born in the year of the Sputniks, but I'm here because our leaders had not the sense to put our water right. They seemed too busy considering how to drop their aitches".

Perhaps an answer, though a very second best answer, lies hidden in a paragraph in the six-page pamphlet on fluoridation issued by the Ministry of Health in July 1955. It says: —

"It could well be argued that any delay in taking general and immediate steps to obtain these benefits for all the children of this country is not justified and, indeed, that the Government have no right to withhold these benefits any longer while studies are carried out in a few places to demonstrate the method to be used. If dental disease were as dramatic in its effects as, for example, cholera, the public would certainly make demands of this kind and, in face of the enormous amount of work which has already been done and which has proved the value and the safety of fluoridation, if such demands were to be made it would be exceedingly difficult to refuse them."

Well! What ARE we waiting for?

Your obedient servant,

NORMAN PARFIT,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

In this first section are collected the various tables which summarise the vital statistics of the three Authorities grouped together. It is followed by sections which deal separately with matters affecting the health of each Authority.

AREA AND POPULATION

The following table shows the area of each district with the estimated population at the middle of 1956. The table shows that the population density of Abingdon Borough and Faringdon Rural Districts are very close to the national averages for England and Wales. Abingdon Rural District, however, has a density three times that of the average (.20) and only one-third of this excess is due to the parishes which are on the outskirts of Oxford, namely, Cumnor, North Hinksey and Kennington.

District	Area in Acres	Est. Mid- 1956 Pop.	Increase on 1955.	Persons per acre
Abingdon Borough	1,754	12,570	430	7.16
Abingdon Rural District	41,185	26,950	1560	.65
Faringdon Rural District	55,726	13,710	260	.25
Totals	98,665	53,230	2250	.53

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

The following table shows the totals of Births and Deaths and the 'corrected' rates per 1,000 of Population. 'Corrected' rates are those which take due account of the actual age and sex composition of each area by being multiplied by the 'comparability factor' supplied by the Registrar General. They may then be fairly compared with those of the nation as a whole, or with the corrected rates of any other area. The factors for Births and Deaths are as follows: Abingdon Borough .93 : 1.21; Abingdon Rural District 1.01 : 1.28 and Faringdon Rural District 1.04 : 1.15. (Figures for 1955 are in brackets).

District	Births	Birth rate per 1000 of Pop.	Deaths	Death rate per 1000 of Pop.
Abingdon Borough	284 (254)	20.9	111 (132)	10.7
Abingdon Rural	554 (521)	20.7	216 (199)	10.2
Faringdon Rural	259 (262)	19.6	110 (124)	9.2
Totals	1097 (1037)	20.5	437 (455)	10.1
England and Wales		15.7 (15.0)		11.7 (11.7)

INFANT MORTALITY

District	Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Live Births	Infant Mortality per 1000 live births
Abingdon Borough	6	275	21.8
Abingdon Rural District	7	546	12.8
Faringdon Rural District	3	254	11.8
Totals	16 (19)	1075 (1024)	14.9 (18.5)
England and Wales			23.8 (24.9)

CAUSES OF DEATH

The 437 deaths in the area were accounted for as follows :—

Cause	Abingdon Borough	Abingdon Rural	Faringdon Rural	Total 1956	Total 1955
Heart Disease	27	66	41	134	129
Vascular lesions of the Nervous system (Stroke)	19	30	19	68	73
Other Diseases of the Circulatory system	6	10	8	24	24
Cancer	19	35	15	69	70
Bronchitis	5	13	3	21	22
Pneumonia	7	8	4	19	15
Influenza	1	2	1	4	2
Other Diseases of the Respiratory system	1	5	2	8	9
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	2	2	6
Non-Pulm. Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
Road Accidents	—	6	3	9	6
All other Accidents	6	—	2	8	17
Suicide	1	4	—	5	5
Congenital Malforma- tions	3	3	—	6	3
Ulcer of Stomach	2	1	1	4	6
Diabetes	1	1	1	3	5
Nephritis	1	1	1	3	4
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	2	—	3	4
Gastritis, Enteritis, etc.	2	—	—	2	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	2	—	2	—
Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	1	—
All other Causes	8	27	7	42	53
Total all Causes	111	216	110	437	455

STILL BIRTHS

District	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Per 1000 total births
Abingdon Borough	9	—	9	31.8
Abingdon Rural District	7	1	8	14.4
Faringdon Rural District	5	—	5	19.3
Totals	21	1	22	20.0
England and Wales				23.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY

For the fourth successive year there were no deaths attributed to accidents of childbirth.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious disease (other than tuberculosis) notified during 1956, with the 1955 figures in brackets.

Disease	Abingdon Borough	Abingdon Rural	Faringdon Rural	Total all Districts
Measles	140 (359)	146 (326)	5 (95)	291 (780)
Dysentery	20 (9)	57 (14)	— (—)	77 (23)
Whooping Cough	27 (44)	31 (74)	1 (6)	59 (124)
Scarlet Fever	14 (14)	34 (10)	5 (8)	53 (32)
Pneumonia	14 (13)	28 (16)	2 (—)	44 (29)
Erysipelas	4 (6)	6 (6)	— (—)	10 (12)
Meningococcal Infection	2 (2)	1 (1)	— (—)	3 (3)
Food Poisoning	— (1)	1 (5)	— (—)	1 (6)
Polio myelitis (Paralytic)	1 (1)	— (1)	(1)	1 (3)
Polio myelitis (Non-Paralytic)	— (1)	— (1)	— (—)	— (2)
Malaria	1 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	1 (—)
Puerperal Pyrexia	— (1)	— (1)	— (—)	— (2)
Encephalitis	— (1)	— (1)	— (—)	— (1)
Typhoid Fever	— (—)	— (1)	— (—)	— (1)
Total	223 (451)	304 (457)	13 (110)	540 (1018)

TUBERCULOSIS (New Cases)

The following table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year, distinguishing between the more serious cases affecting the lungs (Pulmonary) and those affecting other parts of the body. The total of Pulmonary cases, 39, is the same as in 1950 and the same as the average for the past seven years.

Age Periods	Abingdon Borough		Abingdon Rural		Faringdon Rural		Total (All Districts)	
	Pul.	Non- Pul.	Pul.	Non- Pul.	Pul.	Non- Pul.	Pul.	Non- Pul.
0—1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1—5	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
5—10	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
10—15	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
15—20	—	1	3	—	3	—	6	1
20—25	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	—
25—35	1	—	6	—	3	1	10	1
35—45	—	—	5	—	1	—	6	—
45—55	1	—	2	—	—	—	3	—
55—65	2	—	1	—	—	1	3	1
Over 65	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
Total	8	1	24	—	7	2	39	3
1955 Figures	11	5	17	3	1	2	29	10

ABINGDON BOROUGH

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

New houses completed during the year numbered 216. These consisted of 195 Council houses, 12 built by the Council for sale and 9 built by private persons. A further 101 houses were under construction on 31st December 1956 of which 93 were Council houses and 8 were private.

The above brought the number of Council houses to a total of 1,595 of which 570 were built before the war and 1025 completed since the war.

The rents of pre-war houses ranged from 14/6d. to 29/5d. including rates, with an average of 18/7d. per week. Rents for post-war houses ranged from 15/11d. to 71/2d. including rates, the average being approximately 32/3d. per week. The number of applications for new Council houses on 31st December 1956 was 404.

CARAVANS.

The increasing demand for caravan sites in the Borough has been the cause of some concern. During the year efforts have been made to improve conditions for caravan dwellers and to discourage the use of vans which are unsuitable for semi-permanent occupation. The Council continued to provide standings for 17 caravans on one of the Council Estates and the extension of this site or provision of another is under consideration. In addition there are 27 caravans licensed on individual sites, 11 on a licensed private site and 12 vans on a temporary building site making a total of 66 in the Borough.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Refuse continues to be collected weekly from kerb side, although on request arrangements are made to collect from the rear of houses of elderly or infirm people.

Tipping has continued at Wick Hall, Radley Road without undue difficulty and the tip is being left tidy as work proceeds. During the year the labour position has been easier and, for the most part, full crews have been maintained.

SALVAGE

There has been no change in the trend of salvage collection and the income for the year was £442 16s. 7d. which compared with £506 10s. 3d. in 1955.

The total was made up as follows :—

Waste Paper	£364	5s.	10d.
Rags	£	64	10s. 9d.
Scrap metal	£	14	0s. 0d.

MORTUARY

Difficulty was experienced in retaining the services of the Mortuary attendant, but otherwise no special problems were experienced and the Mortuary was used on 63 occasions including 51 post-mortem examinations.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During the year approximately one-third of the open flood area was re-graded in order to provide improved irrigation treatment. During the past few years the flow to the works has increased considerably, not only because of rapidly increasing population but also increased daily consumption of water per person. As a result, the Committee intend to approach the Ministry once again with proposals for the construction of a complete disposal works rather than the partial treatment decided on after the Public Inquiry held in October 1953.

WATER

Consumption during the year was 23.8 gallons per head per day.

As before the water was supplied to about two-thirds of the Borough from the Oxford City Council's Water Undertaking and the remaining one-third from adits and wells at Wootton and Lashford Lane.

During the year the Ministry approved the scheme, estimated to cost £107,000, by which Oxford will supply the whole of the Borough from a reservoir on Boars Hill holding 750,000 gallons, feeding down through mains of 15 inches, 10 inches and 6 inches. This enables Oxford to step up their bulk supply to 330,000 gallons per day, and later to 400,000 or eventually perhaps 500,000.

SWIMMING POOL

Frequent checks were made to ensure that adequate residual chlorine was present in the water, and 6 samples were taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination, the reports on the samples were as follows :

Date	Probable No. per 100 ml Coliform Bacilli	
	Non-Faecal	Faecal
16th May	25	0
29th May	1	1
12th June	3	1
18th June	5	1
8th August	12	0
19th September	0	0

These figures show that the water from the Thames, which is kept in the area at a comparatively high standard of purity by the vigilance of the Thames Conservancy Board and others, is made even more safe by the chlorination applied daily during the swimming season.

MILK

During the year 37 samples of milk were taken in the course of delivery or at schools in the Borough and submitted for bacteriological examination with the good results indicated.

Class of Milk	Test	No. of Samples	No. of Samples Passed	Samples Failed
Pasteurised	Phosphatase	19	19	Nil
	Methylene Blue	19	19	Nil
Tuberculin Tested	Phosphatase	16	16	Nil
	Methylene Blue	16	16	Nil
Sterilised	Turbidity	2	2	Nil

A number of complaints were received regarding the dirty condition of milk bottles retailed in the Borough, though processed beyond the Abingdon Rural District. The detection of such bottles does primarily depend on the "human element" at the processing centre and retailing depots. Following joint action with the local authorities concerned, the method of checking was improved and a higher standard of cleanliness maintained.

ICE CREAM

44 samples were taken and submitted for analysis to the Public Health Laboratory, and were provisionally graded as follows :

Grade I 31 ; Grade II 10 ; Grade III 2 ; Grade IV 1.

This, with the one exception in Grade IV, compares very favourably with the standard suggested by the Ministry of Health.

MEAT

The following table sets out the number of carcasses inspected, together with particulars of carcasses and offal found to be affected with tuberculosis and other conditions.

Caldecott Abattoir

	No. Slaughtered	No. found T.B.	to be affected			Whole carcasses	
			% of total	Other Conditions	% of total	T.B.	Other Conditions
Steers & Heifers	1711	65	3.79	668	39.04	7	5
Cows	775	181	23.3	306	39.49	24	19
Sheep	7215	—	—	113	1.55	—	19
Calves	413	—	—	21	5.8	—	25
Pigs	13963	189	1.35	1791	12.8	3	22
Total	24077	435	1.76	2899	12.04	34	90

Bacon Factory

Pigs	3000	57	1.9	165	3.66	1	4
Total	3000	57	1.9	165	3.66	1	4
Grand Total	27077	492		3064		35	94

Weight of diseased and unsound meat and offal condemned :—

Meat	40,806 lbs.
Offal	30,784 lbs.
Total	71,590 lbs.

Meat condemned at Butchers' Shops :—

Meat	335 lbs.
Offal	218 lbs.
Total	553 lbs.

Analysis of Causes of Condemnation of Carcasses.

Disease	Steers & Heifers	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Number Inspected	1,711	775	413	7215	16,963	27,077
Tuberculosis	7	24	—	—	4	35
Oedema General	1	5	6	5	6	23
Oedema & Emaciation	1	4	1	6	1	13
Septicaemia	—	—	—	1	6	7
Septic Metritis	—	3	—	2	1	6
Moribund	—	—	1	3	2	6
Immaturity	—	—	5	—	—	5
Septic Peritonitis	1	—	—	—	4	5
All Other Causes	3	6	5	3	11	28
Totals	13	42	18	20	35	128

(a) The bulk of condemned meat and offal at the Caldecott Abattoir is disposed of in a digester and processing plant adjoining the premises. A certain amount of condemned meat was sent to other areas for processing into pet animal food. This meat is stained green before dispatch and favourable reports have been received regarding the consignees from the local authorities in the receiving areas. In the case of Messrs. Cottrell's Bacon Factory, all condemned meat and offal is disposed of by burial on the corporation tip.

(b) *Cysticercus Bovis*. Routine examination of all cattle was carried out and in 15 cases (0.6%) cysts of this tape worm were found and the affected carcasses and offal dispatched to Cold Storage accommodation at East Hagbourne, Berkshire.

Liaison with local authorities concerned ensured that the carcasses and offal were refrigerated at a temperature below 20° F. for 21 days before release.

OTHER FOODS

The following foodstuffs were condemned :

181 lbs. Tinned Fruit	28 lbs. Tinned Fish
11 lbs. Tinned Milk	7 lbs. Tinned Soup
87 lbs. Tinned Vegetables	67 lbs. Tinned Jam/Syrup
57 lbs. Tinned Ham	6 lbs. Tinned Fruit Juices
2 Miscellaneous Tins	
112 lbs. Mussels	44 lbs. Dried Fruit
248 lbs. Fresh Fish.	

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1956

A detailed survey of the food premises in the town was commenced and 61 informal notices for contravention of the Regulations have been served during the year. Some delay in the completion of the necessary works has been experienced due to a shortage of building operatives. The general reaction of the trade to the regulations has been favourable, although some of the older property in the centre of the town presents considerable difficulties.

FOOD PREMISES

The number of the various types of premises in the Borough and the number of visits paid to them during the year was as follows :—

Type	No.	Visits	Type	No.	Visits
Bacon Factory	1	155	Cafes & Restaurants	17	36
Abattoir	1	602	Bakeries	5	6
Sale & Manufacture of Preserved Food	6	95	Licensed Premises	42	20
Grocers & General Stores	39	61	Fresh & Fried Fish Merchants	6	11
Sale of Ice Cream	33	41	Greengrocers	12	11
Butchers	10	64	Milk Distributors	3	33

HOUSING

A. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :

(1) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects	150
(2) Number of inspections made	210
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation,	10
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	25

B. Remedy of defects during the year :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	6
--	---

C. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

Demolition Orders	2
-------------------	---

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Improvements were carried out to 9 houses and one flat. A self-contained flat was formed from commercial premises and 12 Almshouses were completely modernised. A total of 23 dwellings were concerned and the following amenities provided :—

Kitchens	13
Food Store	15
Hot Water System	21
Bathrooms	13
Internal W.C's.	21
Improved Natural Lighting	2
Additional Living Accommodation	13
Electric Lighting	1
Modern Fireplaces	15
Fuel Stores	3
Drying Rooms	3

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS

Part I of the Act.

	No.	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories without mechanical power	9	4	Nil
Factories with mechanical power	54	26	7
Other Premises	6	1	Nil
Total	69	31	7

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	—Referred—	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)				
(a) Insufficient	2	1	-	2
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	1	-	5
Total	7	2	--	7

The number of Outworkers in the August list was 7, all engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' WORK DURING 1956

General Sanitation Visits :

Drainage	168
Stable & Piggeries	4
Offensive Trades	16
Tents, Vans and Sheds	212
Factories	31
Workplaces	2
Bakehouses	6
Refuse Collection	32
Refuse Disposal	65
Rats and Mice	8
Smoke Observations	1
Schools	5
Shops	67
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	106
Fairs	4
Petroleum	34

Housing :

Number of houses inspected	210
Visits paid to above houses	270
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	15

Meat and Food Inspection :

Visits to—

Slaughterhouses	757
Shops and Stalls	173
Butchers	64
Fishmongers and Poulterers	10
Grocers	61
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	11
Milk Distributors	33
Ice Cream Premises	41
Restaurants	26
Food Preparing Premises	105
Total number of visits made	2364

Defects and Nuisances :

Number of Complaints received	125
„ „ Defects or nuisances discovered	95
„ „ Notices served (Informal)	110
„ „ Notices served (Statutory)	19
„ „ Prosecutions	Nil
„ „ Water samples taken	21

ABINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

This table gives certain essential figures as a background against which the following pages can be viewed.

Parish	Est. Pop. Mid. 1956	Area in Acres	Total Houses	Council Houses	Rateable Value £	Product of 1d. Rate £ s.
Appleford	306	862	83	14	1399	5 15
Appleton-with-Eaton	823	2077	224	33	4600	18 12
Besselsleigh	78	906	21	2	570	2 6
Cumnor	3822	5672	1041	256	41500	170 5
Draycott Moor	457	1054	124*	63*	2601	10 7
Drayton	1769	2604	482	96	10484	43 2
Frilford	214	1147	58	—	3097	12 12
Fyfield & Tubney	612	2746	166	24	4420	18 1
Garford	140	1068	38	4	498	2 1
Kennington	3090	1369	841	138	30321	122 11
Kingston Bagpuize	272	1109	74	16	1377	5 12
Lyford	158	774	43	—	221	16
Marcham	896	2514	244	42	9149	36 16
Milton	812	1466	221	36	35383	145 11
North Hinksey	4860	1087	1324	72	53582	218 5
Radley	1108	2863	301	63	15602	64 7
St. Helen Without	928	2047	252	8	41632	171 11
South Hinksey	331	509	90	8	4890	20 3
Steventon	1318	2401	359 ⁺	81 ⁺	16583	67 17
Sunningwell	894	1332	243	38	11759	46 4
Sutton Courtenay	1620	2103	441	38	51700	212 18
Wootton	2240	1523	610	113	24159	98 5
Wytham	202	1992	55	—	3484	14 4
Southern Gas Board					502	2 1
Totals	26950	41225	7335	1145	£369513	£1510 2
Totals for 1955	25390	41225	6910	1070	£299695	£807 11

* Includes 36 Camp Hutments.

† Includes 13 Camp Hutments.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

New Houses completed during the year numbered 435. These consisted of 80 new Council Houses and 355 built by Private Enterprise. A further 150 were under construction on 31st December 1956, of which 56 were Council Houses and 94 were private.

The distribution of these 585 houses is shown in the following table —

Parish	Council Houses		Private Enterprise	
	Completed	Under Con- struction 31.12.56	Completed	Under Con- struction 31.12.56
Appleford	—	—	2	1
Appleton with Eaton	—	—	4	1
Besselsleigh	—	—	—	—
Cumnor	—	—	85	30
Draycott Moor	—	—	11	4
Drayton	—	—	4	3
Frilford	—	—	1	3
Fyfield and Tubney	—	—	3	2
Garford	—	—	—	2
Kennington	56	56	94	9
Kingston Bagpuize	—	—	—	—
Lyford	—	—	—	—
Marcham	—	—	3	1
Milton	—	—	6	3
North Hinksey	—	—	115	20
Radley	—	—	4	1
St. Helen Without	—	—	2	—
South Hinksey	—	—	—	—
Steventon	6	—	5	3
Sunningwell	—	—	2	2
Sutton Courtenay	—	—	3	5
Wootton	18	—	11	4
Wytham	—	—	—	—
Totals	80	56	355	94
Totals for 1955	53	72	322	282

TEMPORARY DWELLINGS

At Wootton 40 prefabricated bungalows continue to be used as housing accommodation, together with two sites listed below which contain huts converted into living units, the maintenance of which is the Council's responsibility. Towards the end of the year the roofs of all the prefabricated bungalows were extensively overhauled and this work should serve to prolong the useful life of this type of property.

Steventon. Further progress has been made in re-housing families in this camp and dismantling of all huts, when vacated, has taken place. 'The number of families living there has been reduced from 18 to 13.

Kingston Bagpuize. Dismantling and evacuation of the camp has continued and the number of families living there reduced from 41 to 36.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government in the Third Report on Requisitioned Properties in Use for Housing recommended that all huttred camps should be closed before the end of 1958. The problem of re-housing "Unsatisfactory Tenants" is one which will require very careful consideration, and it is expected to involve some 12 families (8 at Steventon and 4 at Kingston Bagpuize.).

RENTS

Pre-war Council Houses were let at the standard rent of 15/- or 17/6 per week which could be reduced to a minimum of 5/- by various rebates. Post-war Council Houses may also be reduced to a minimum of 5/- by rebate, or increased in the presence of lodgers or of sons or daughters over 16 years of age, to a maximum of £1 : 6 : 0 for a 2-bedroom house : £1 : 13 : 0 for a 3-bedroom house, and £1 : 16 : 0 for a 4-bedroom house.

'Prefabs' were let at 14/- and camp huts at 7/6 per week. This last figure is inclusive while all the others are exclusive of rates.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS

Repair and improvement to all classes of property has continued throughout the year and the following table shows the distribution of the work :—

Parish	Housing Conversions	Additional Bedrooms	New Bathrooms	New W.C's.
Appleford	—	1	2	2
Appleton	—	—	2	3
Besselsleigh	—	—	3	3
Cumnor	1	3	10	10
Draycott Moor	—	1	3	3
Drayton	—	2	2	2
Frilford	—	1	2	2
Fyfield and Tubney	—	—	—	—
Garford	—	—	4	4
Kennington	2	—	1	1
Kingston Bagpuize	—	1	4	4
Lyford	—	—	5	5
Marcham	—	1	1	1
Milton	—	1	2	2
North Hinksey	—	2	—	—
Radley	2	—	2	2
St. Helen Without	—	1	—	1
South Hinksey	—	—	1	2
Steventon	—	—	1	1
Sunningwell	—	—	1	1
Sutton Courtenay	—	1	1	1
Wootton	—	1	—	—
Wytham	—	—	4	4
Totals	5	16	51	54
Figures for 1955	5	12	30	34

The above figures include 35 houses which have been modernised with the aid of Improvement Grants made by the Council under the authority of the Housing Acts 1949-54. The table shows work done in 22 of the 23 Parishes in the district, whereas in 1955 only 14 Parishes were concerned. Since 1952 a total of £31,833 has been approved by the Council for grants involving 114 properties.

HOUSING

During the year 13 properties were demolished as a result of formal or informal action. In addition a start has been made on representing property scheduled for proposed demolition under the Council's Slum Clearance programme. The speed with which this goes ahead is of course directly related to the Council's housing programme. and as a number of these properties are occupied by older people, special consideration will have to be given to this problem.

The Council is at the moment actively considering the provision of homes for the elderly, but as yet a final programme has not been decided.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

The total number of caravans licensed in the district during the year increased by 31, from 418 to 449. The following list shows their disposition on 31st December 1956 :—

2 Appleford	28 Kennington	19 South Hinksey
63 Cumnor	2 Marcham	7 Steventon
1 Draycott Moor	6 Milton	16 Sunningwell
75 Drayton	28 North Hinksey	9 Sutton Courtenay
7 Frilford	160 Radley	14 Wootton
2 Fyfield & Tubney	10 St. Helen Without	

Five licensed sites in the district remained open for permanent occupation for 180 caravans. They were Big Wood, Radley 75 ; Hayward Road, Drayton 45 ; Sugworth Lane, Radley 25 ; Lodge Hill, Radley 20 and Bayworth, Sunningwell 15.

In 1949 the number of caravans licensed in the district was 96. On the average during the seven years since then this total of 96 has been increased by a similar number—94—every two years.

SALVAGE

A total of 17 tons of waste paper and rags was sold during the year. A net sum of £144 being received for relief of the rates.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The weekly kerbside collection of household refuse has continued as in previous years. The task of maintaining this service has been rendered more difficult by the addition of another 466 properties and caravans during the year. It is hoped that in 1957 a new large capacity vehicle will be brought into commission to replace one of the old and smaller type which is now operating.

The Council has also had under active consideration during the year the possibility of installing litter bins throughout the district and arranging weekly collection.

Refuse disposal is at Milton and Farmoor, and the latter tip which has been operating during the past year should provide adequate facilities for tipping for a great number of years.

WATER

The northern and central areas of the district, comprising 17 parishes, continue to be served by a piped supply from Oxford City Water Undertaking, who carry out regular sampling for bacteriological and chemical analyses.

The following table gives details of dwellings receiving water from piped supplies :—

Parish	Total No. of Dwelling Houses	No. of Houses supplied with main water	No. of Houses supplied by standpipes.
Oxford City Water Undertaking			
Appleton	224	148	—
Besselsleigh	21	15	—
Cunnor	1041	1000	—
Draycott Moor	124	114	—
Frilford	58	48	—
Fyfield and Tubney	166	116	—
Garford	38	34	—
Kennington	841	792	—
Kingston Bagpuize	74	52	—
Marcham	244	166	—
North Hinksey	1324	1268	—
Radley	301	267	—
St. Helen Without	252	221	—
South Hinksey	90	90	—
Sunningwell	243	235	—
Wootton	610	597	—
Wytham	55	25	—
Total	5706	5188	—
Abingdon R.D.C. Undertaking			
Drayton	482	373	94
Milton	221	158	41
Steventon	359	173	115
Sutton Courtenay	441	322	84
Total	1503	1026	334
Not supplied With Main Water			
Appleford	83	—	—
Lyford	43	—	—
Total	126	—	—
Grand Total	7335	6214	334

Water for the Southern Parishes of Sutton Courtenay, Drayton, Milton and Steventon, continues to be supplied in bulk by Wantage R.D.C. at an average daily rate of 100,000 gallons. The parishes of Appleford and Lyford have still not been provided with a main supply, but schemes for supplying both parishes are being considered.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The main Botley-Kennington scheme continues to function satisfactorily although, as reported over the past couple of years, unless there is some extension carried out to the works in the near future, difficulty may be experienced in dealing with the ever increasing quantity of sewage.

A scheme has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for extending the sewer to Harcourt Hill. This would serve the newly approved Methodist Training College (which will have 300 persons in residence,

including staff), and an additional 17 private dwellings. This extension will of course, place a further strain on the sewage disposal works, as mentioned in the previous paragraph.

The small temporary disposal works constructed to serve the Council's housing estates functioned reasonably satisfactorily throughout the year in the following parishes :—Radley, Drayton, Sutton Courtenay, Appleton, Fyfield and Milton.

The temporary disposal works serving the Bayworth Council Houses is no longer in existence, as the sewer from Sunningwell has been extended to take in these properties.

(1) Whitecross, Sunningwell, Wootton and parts of St. Helen Without.

The main drainage scheme serving the above parishes is now completed and functioning satisfactorily. To date the total number of houses connected to the sewer is 560 (78%), and further connections are being made week by week. As a result, the disposal works at Gozzards Ford are gradually becoming overloaded, and it will be necessary in the near future to extend the works.

(2) Appleton and part of Cumnor.

(3) Part of Cumnor and Radley.

Both of these proposed main sewerage schemes have been temporarily postponed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, until the economic state of the country warrants the relaxation of financial restrictions.

(4) Drayton, Milton, Steventon and Sutton Courtenay.

Work was started on the first phase of the main scheme to include the above parishes, and it is anticipated this will be in operation before the end of 1957. The second and third phases await the consent of the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

The total number of "Distributors" who have been registered under the above and who retail milk in this district is 4. One dairy (not being a Dairy Farm) has been registered. Seven firms retail in the area under cover of Supplementary Licences.

Sampling of school milk supplied by five Dealers retailing in this area has continued each quarter throughout the year. Twenty samples were taken for examination, all of which were satisfactory.

FOOD PREMISES

The total number of food premises in the area is 128, comprising the following types of businesses :—

Grocery and General Stores	48	Butchers	6
Confectionery	10	Fishmongers	2
Greengrocery	3	Bakehouses	5
Cafes	5	Public Houses	49

Of these 128 premises, 42 are registered for Ice-cream and 2 for the manufacture of Sausages.

In May all proprietors or managers of food premises were circularised concerning the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955, and a pamphlet enclosed outlining in readable form their obligations and responsibilities under the Regulations. As this legislation applies to all handlers of food, heads of schools and managers of works' canteens and clubs were also circularised.

It has been possible to devote only a limited amount of time to the inspection of food premises with regard to the new Food Hygiene Regulations.

Two new shops (not food premises) of a permanent nature have been built during the year and a limited number of inspections have also been made under the Shops Act, 1950.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

During the year the following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered after examination had shown them to be unfit for human consumption :—

Corned Beef (tinned)	579 lbs.
Steak & Kidney Pie (tinned)	5 lbs.
Pork Luncheon Meat (tinned)	15 lbs.
Minced Meat Loaf (tinned)	12 ozs.
Tinned Ham	14 lbs.
Lunch Tongue (tinned)	24 lbs.
Cabbage Greens	72 lbs.
Tomatoes (tinned)	2 lbs.

All condemned food was disposed of by burial.

DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The Rodent Officer carried out control work under the above Act by means of poison.

The total number of visits to premises during the year was 4615, and the number of dead rats and mice recovered was 310. Infestation work was carried out at 478 premises.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections made	No. of written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories without mechanical power	6	1	—	—
Factories with mechanical power	40	9	—	—
Total	46	10	—	—

The number of Outworkers in the August list was 12, 11 engaged in the making of wearing apparel and 1 in the making of curtains and furniture hangings.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' WORK DURING 1956

No. of different premises visited	1020
„ Visits made	1980
„ Complaints received	82
„ Defects or nuisances discovered	70
„ Notices served (Informal)	48
„ Notices served (Statutory)	Nil
„ Prosecutions	Nil

Matters in relation to which visits were made :

Nuisances	70
Inadequate or defective sanitary accommodation	15
Drainage	120
Keeping of Animals	22
Water Supplies	140
Infectious Diseases	1
Disinfections	2
Pollution (streams or ditches)	50
Refuse Collection	70
Refuse Disposal	220
Tents, vans, sheds, etc.	685
Unclean houses	1
Butchers' shops	10
Bakehouses	10
Food Premises	30
Public Houses	25
Dairy Inspections	10
Milk Supplies	26
Shops (other than food shops)	6
Petroleum storage	30
Factories and Workplaces	10
Outworkers	24
Miscellaneous	403

No. of Defects or Nuisances abated :

As to Privies, W.C's, Sink wastes	6
„ Drains or cesspools	22
„ Pigs or other animals	6
„ Dairies, etc.	—
„ Deficient or impure water	3
„ Unclean houses	1
„ Overcrowded houses	—
„ Polluted ditches, streams, etc.	16
„ Insanitary accumulations or deposits	6
„ Other defects or nuisances	10
No. of Premises disinfected	1
„ Water samples for analysis	25
„ Wells closed	3
„ Wells cleansed, repaired, etc.	7
„ New wells sunk	1
„ Houses connected to water main	436
„ Seizures of unsound food	3
„ Closets replaced by W.C's.	54
„ Inspections to piggeries	1
„ Milk samples taken	22
„ Ice Cream samples taken	2

FARINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

This table gives certain essential figures as a background against which the following pages can be viewed.

Parish	Est. Pop. Mid. 1955	Area in Acres	Total Houses	Council Houses	Rateable Value £	Product of 1d. Rate £ s.
Ashbury	607	5609	170	36	2402	8 13
Baulking	114	1580	38	—	350	1 6
Bourton	363	1260	72	—	1294	4 19
Buckland	649	4505	174	—	2765	11 1
Buscot	275	2887	71	—	1331	5 7
Charney Bassett	174	1209	55	—	490	1 18
Coleshill	235	2014	73	—	664	2 11
Compton Beauchamp	87	1812	32	—	503	1 19
Eaton Hastings	111	1570	35	—	377	1 8
Faringdon	3436	3547	996	268	18806	74 14
Fernham	201	1016	56	8	1021	4 3
Great Coxwell	253	1435	79	12	859	3 6
Hatford	91	993	27	—	329	1 6
Hinton Waldrist	276	2016	80	14	783	3 1
Kingston Lisle	254	2040	71	12	1126	4 11
Little Coxwell	214	887	73	—	1002	3 19
Littleworth	277	2350	76	—	994	3 18
Longcot	294	1894	91	12	895	3 11
Longworth	665	2291	194	40	3025	12 0
Pusey	119	1040	32	—	545	1 19
Shellingford	183	1761	55	2	851	3 9
Shrivenham	1742	2695	410*	83	17854	74 19
Stanford	978	2927	284	70	3269	13 1
Uffington	589	2929	181	54	1889	7 7
Watchfield	1421	1517	408†	34	13332	54 7
Woolstone	102	1942	38	—	448	1 15
South Western Gas Board						8 13
Totals	13710	55726	2871	645	£77204	£319 1
Totals for 1955	13450	55726	3790	605	£75642	£300 16

* Includes 82 Military Married Quarters.

† Includes 289 Military Married Quarters.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

New houses completed during the year numbered 72. These consisted of 40 Council Houses and 32 built by Private enterprise. A further 28 were under construction on the 31st December 1956, of which 8 were Council Houses and 20 were Private.

The distribution of these 100 houses is shown by the following table :—

Parish	Council Houses		Private Enterprise	
	Completed	Under Con- struction 31.12.56	Completed	Under Con- struction 31.12.56
Buckland	—	—	1	—
Charney Bassett	—	—	2	3
Faringdon	7	—	6	5
Hinton Waldrist	—	—	2	—
Little Coxwell	—	—	1	—
Longcot	—	—	1	—
Longworth	—	—	5	4
Shrivenham	3	—	8	6
Stanford	—	—	4	—
Watchfield	30	8	2	2
Totals	40	8	32	20
Totals for 1955	26	32	29	24

RENTS

Rents for all Council properties are fixed at an average economic figure for each class of property.

Excluding a few 4-bedroomed Houses these maximum economic rents range in the case of pre-war houses from 15/- to 17/7 and for post-war houses from 24/6 to 28/6d. Tenants however receive rebates which may total up to 7/- for pre-war houses or total 13/9 for post-war houses. These rebates may reduce the rents to minimum figures of between 8/- and 11/7 for pre-war houses and between 12/6 and 15/3 for post-war houses.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

The disposition of the 25 caravans licensed in individual parishes on the 31st December 1956 was as follows :—

Parish	Caravans	Parish	Caravans
Buckland	1	Littleworth	1
Eaton Hastings	9	Longworth	1
Faringdon	4	Shrivenham	3
Great Coxwell	1	Uffington	1
Hinton Waldrist	1	Stanford	1
Little Coxwell	1	Watchfield	1

WATER

Quality :

Water from private wells was generally unsatisfactory, but the piped water supplies in the area continued to maintain a reasonable quality. Certain difficulties were experienced during the summer months when attempts to maintain a chlorine residual throughout the distribution system proved unsuccessful. In consequence, the Council decided upon the installation of a heavy duty chlorinator together with an ammonia injection plant to enable the chlorinator treatment to be adopted. It is expected that the use of chloramine will carry

and maintain a sufficient residual throughout the whole of the distribution system and this should not only improve taste and odour conditions, but also act as a further safeguard against contamination from any cause.

Quantity :

Some anxiety was felt during the early part of the summer that the flow of the Thames at Buscot would fall below the minimum of 10 million gallons per day. Had it done so we would have had to stop using Thames water. Happily the rain arrived in time to prevent difficulties. The borehole sources at Ashdown Park and Wicklesham maintained a good level throughout the year. Complaints of water shortage have been received from Kingston Lisle and the Council have been endeavouring to obtain a more satisfactory supply from the undertakers—Wantage R.D.C.

New Construction :

The extensions to Eaton Hastings and Tucks Lane, Longworth were completed during the year and brought into use. The Eaton Hastings extension has replaced the existing private piped supply of the Buscot Estate which has been most unsatisfactory for many years.

Applications for connections to the water mains continue to be received and to the end of the year a further 124 connections were made. The public are still slow in taking advantage of the piped water supply but when present day costs are considered it may explain one of the reasons for the delay—a simple main tapping and extension of a service pipe to one kitchen tap can cost anything from £5 to £20 depending upon the length of service pipe and the conditions under which it has to be laid.

Piped Water Supplies :

Woolstone is now the only village with a private supply as the sole source of supply to a village. Although Buckland, Shellingford and Shellingford R.A.F. Station have private piped supplies the Council's supply is also available in these villages.

Kingston Lisle is supplied in bulk by the Wantage R.D.C. from the Council's mains in Sparsholt.

All public supplies are chlorinated together with the private supply to Buckland Village.

The water, both public and private, is hard and in consequence no plumbo-solvent action is experienced.

Examinations :

Routine sampling of all piped supplies was carried out during the year and the results of the bacteriological examinations are shown in the following table. Where supplies are chlorinated all samples were taken after such treatment.

Supply	No. of Samples	Ministry of Health's Grading			
		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Ashdown Park	9	9	—	—	—
Kingston Lisle	2	2	—	—	—
Woolstone	7	6	1	—	—
Shellingford	5	—	—	1	4
Shellingford R.A.F. Station	3	3	—	—	—
Buscot & Eaton Hastings	2	1	—	1	—
Folly Hill	13	13	—	—	—
Totals	41	34	1	2	4

Details of Dwellings Receiving Water from Piped Supplies.

Parish	Houses			Approx. Population		
	No.	Direct Supply.	Stand-pipe.	No.	Direct Supply	Stand-pipe.
Ashbury	170	146	22	607	507	77
Baulking	38	18	17	114	63	59
Bourton	72	52	20	363	182	70
Buckland	174	87	4	649	301	14
Buscot	71	31	32	275	108	112
Charney Bassett	55	26	24	174	91	72
Coleshill	73	12	47	235	51	157
Compton Beauchamp	32	28	4	87	68	14
Eaton Hastings	35	20	15	111	61	50
Faringdon	996	879	32	3436	3073	112
Fernham	56	47	8	201	164	28
Great Coxwell	79	60	6	253	209	21
Hatford	27	14	8	91	48	28
Hinton Waldrist	80	48	18	276	167	63
Kingston Lisle	71	65	5	254	227	17
Little Coxwell	73	55	14	214	147	49
Littleworth	76	32	2	277	112	7
Longcot	91	73	7	294	257	24
Longworth	194	138	4	665	486	12
Pusey	32	16	5	119	61	17
Shellingford	55	19	20	183	63	70
Shrivenham	410	355	32	1742	1554	112
Stanford	284	159	29	978	562	101
Uffington	181	146	35	589	513	51
Watchfield	408	338	22	1421	1231	77
Woolstone	38	17	16	102	50	46
Totals	3871	2881	448	13710	10356	1460

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During the year plans for the Sewage Disposal Scheme for Kingston Lisle were completed and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval. Preparatory work was commenced on a new scheme for the village of Hinton Waldrist.

The irrigation area and extension of the sewers at Little Coxwell was completed and brought into commission.

Drainage problems throughout the district remain difficult, particularly where no sewerage system exists, and with the ever increasing demand for water from both domestic and agricultural users these difficulties will tend to increase until the problem of providing adequate drainage facilities is dealt with. With present restrictions on capital expenditure, this may be long delayed but the policy of the Council is to have as many schemes as possible prepared and approved awaiting the day when work on them can commence.

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE

The kerbside collection of household refuse has continued as before. Houses in Faringdon are serviced weekly while all other parishes receive a fortnightly collection.

The employment of an additional man was approved in April and as a result it has been possible to devote more time to the maintenance of the refuse tips. It is becoming increasingly apparent, however, that a high standard of controlled tipping can only be achieved with the assistance of some form of mechanical aid. The quantity of refuse to be handled continues to increase.

Salvage of mixed waste paper was continued during the year and total receipts from this source amounted to £145 compared with £103 during 1955.

The salvage of tins was re-started in July and the sum of £41 was received for these up to the 31st of December.

MILK

With effect from the 1st October 1956 the rural district was included in a Specified Area. This means that all milk retailed in the district is either T.T. Milk or is heat treated.

Two dairies are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations and 3 distributors. 5 firms are licensed to retail milk in the district and one to sell milk wholesale.

Five samples of milk as delivered to the Schools in the district were taken during the year and submitted to the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests. All samples were found to be satisfactory.

MEAT

There are three licensed Slaughterhouses in the District and the following is a list of carcasses inspected and meat found to be unfit for human consumption :

	Steers	Heifers	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Inspected	874	809	229	796	2638	846
All diseases except Tuberculosis :						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some part was condemned	74	29	17	2	5	8
Percentage of the No. inspected with disease other than tuberculosis	8.2	3.7	8	.3	.2	1.2
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	1	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part was condemned	10	8	9	—	—	5
Percentage of the No. inspected with tuberculosis	1.1	1	4.4	—	—	.6

OTHER FOODS

During the year the following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered after examination had shown them to be unfit for human consumption :—

50½ lbs. of tins of various foodstuffs.

REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES

39 Premises are registered for the sale of Ice Cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, no premises being registered for the manufacture of this product.

In addition one Butcher's shop and one Grocer's are registered for the sale and manufacture of preserved foods.

44 Inspections of registered premises were made and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

FOOD PREMISES

All proprietors of food premises in the area were supplied with an explanatory leaflet setting out the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations. Routine inspections carried out throughout the year indicate that in general the standard of these premises is satisfactory. The following list shows the number of food premises in the district, set out in accordance with the type of business carried on. The majority of the shops are of the small village general stores type, staffed by the proprietor and members of his family.

Number in district :

Grocers	42	Fish Frying	
Butchers	12	Establishments	2
Confectioners	16	Cafes	8
Greengrocers	5	Fishmongers	1
Number of inspections carried out on food shops			93
Number of inspections carried out on stalls and vehicles			4
Number of inspections carried out on cafes and inns			30

BAKEHOUSES

Number in district	8
Number of inspections	22
Defects found and remedied	1

HOUSING

A special sub-Committee of the Council carried out a survey of each parish during the early part of the year. As a result of this, and taking into account the special difficulties associated with slum clearance in small isolated villages, revised proposals were formulated and approved by the Minister. In accordance with these proposals it is anticipated that approximately 116 houses would need to be dealt with by demolition in a 5-year programme.

Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	119
Number of Closing orders made	2

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

48 applications under the Housing Act 1949 were dealt with by the Council and approval was given to 47 of them, many being for the modernisation of old property. Of these 47, 6 subsequently withdrew, but 20 were completed within the year. Of these, 5 each were at Buckland and Shellingford and three at Faringdon.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS

Premises	Inspections.		No. of written notices	Prosecutions
	No. of Register	Inspections made		
Factories without mechanical power	8	6	—	—
Factories with mechanical power	39	33	—	—
Total	47	39	—	—

The number of outworkers in the August list was 2, both engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S WORK DURING THE YEAR 1956

No. of Visits made	1464
.. Complaints received	18
.. Defects or nuisances discovered	21
.. Notices served (Informal)	18
.. Notices served (Statutory)	3
.. Prosecutions	Nil
Miscellaneous matters in relation to which visits were made :	
Nuisances	4
Inadequate or defective sanitary accommodation	1
Drainage	162
Water supplies	183
Infectious Diseases	10
Food Poisoning	8
Refuse Collection	81
Refuse Disposal	111
Tents, Vans & Sheds or similar structures	17
Knackers' Yards	4
Unclean houses	3
Council House applications	123
Butchers' Shops	18
Bakehouses	22
Food Premises	108
Milk Supplies	8
Petroleum Storage	28
Shops (other than food shops)	16
Factories and Workplaces	39
Schools	24
Miscellaneous Visits	65
No. of Defects or Nuisances abated	71
.. Premises disinfected	2
.. Water samples taken for examination	84
.. Houses connected with water mains	120
.. Inspections of Dairies	3
.. Inspections of Slaughterhouses	567

